REMARKS

With respect to the several informalities cited in the Office Action with respect to the claims, it would appear that claims considered and acted upon were the claims of the translation submitted with the original filing of the application and not the amended claims submitted with the preliminary amendment dated February 22, 2005. Nevertheless, with respect to the claims filed with the preliminary amendment, such claims further have been amended and claims 3 and 9-10 have been canceled. Reconsideration of remaining claims 1, 2 and 4-8 respectfully is requested in view of the following comments.

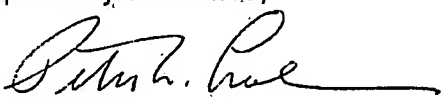
The remaining claims as amended provide for the prevention of the replacement of memory modules effective in controlling the operation of a motor vehicle control device if such replacement modules are not compatible with the control device. Such compatibility is determined by a comparison of the identifier stored in the read only memory of the microprocessor and the identifier provided in the replacement module. Terada et al neither discloses nor teaches any such structure. Terada et al relates to the operation of a control unit of a vehicle device in which a new control program and control data is transmitted from the memory rewriting device 4 to the flash ROM 20a of the ECU2, and the identification code is used merely to ascertain whether an error in transmission has occurred. If the ID sent from the memory-rewriting device 4 and the self-held ID stored in the mask ROM 20b do not coincide, an error signal is indicated. Such use of an identification code is clearly distinguishable from the use of identifiers for preventing the installation of an incompatible module as provided in the claimed invention.

It further is submitted that neither of the secondary references cited to Hirota et al or Goldstein teaches any modification to Terada et al to arrive at the claimed invention. Hirota et al merely discloses the use of a semiconductor memory card and a data reading apparatus suitable for copyright protection of digital contents. Goldstein merely discloses an access routine which requires a user to perform a sequence of actions involving images, which sequence is then compared with a predefined sequence of action. Neither of such references relates to the prevention of the replacements of unsuitable memory modules in control units of automotive devices.

In view of the foregoing, it respectfully is requested that the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-8, such claims be allowed and further that the application be passed to issue.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 14-1437, under Order No. 8369.005.US0000.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter N. Lalos
Registration No. 19,789
NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG LLP
1300 Eye Street, NW
1000 West Tower
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 659-0100
Facsimile: (202) 659-0105

PNL:tnj

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